

G. Short Interviews

1. WILLIAM CALDWELL

Uptown Short Oral Interview Transcript

July 14, 2003 by Susan D. Walter



Procedure and Method:

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Mike Singleton is a community activist. He runs the Residents/Design Subcommittee of the Mission Hills Association, which is involved in researching the history and preservation of the area of Mission Hills. He organized the meeting, which was attended by approximately 30 people.

Everyone was photographed. A brief questionnaire was distributed to all the participants; not everyone returned them. Selection of the eight individuals, from the questionnaires, was based on the number of years the respondents had lived in the area. Recording equipment consisted of a Sony cassette recorder, played at regular speed. The tape recording was transcribed by Rachael Van Wormer. Susan Walter edited the transcript. Additionally, the interview was videotaped by Stephen Van Wormer on a Sony 120X digital Super Steady Shot video camera.

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San Diego Historical Society
1649 El Prado
Balboa Park
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 232-6203

City of San Diego, Planning Department, 202 C Street, San Diego, California 92101 ♦
♦ IS Architecture, Ione R. Stiegler, Architect, 5649 La Jolla Blvd, La Jolla, California 92037 ♦
♦ Walter Enterprises, Stephen Van Wormer, Historian and Susan Walter, Oral Historian,
238 2nd Avenue, Chula Vista, California 91910 ♦

Uptown Historic Context and Oral History Report

Oral History Report

ITEM	NOTES
cassette tape	2 cassettes taped at regular speed; the informant was one of 8 who spoke individually for 5 minutes on Tape 1, Side 1; this was followed by a group discussion
video tape	2 tapes of the whole meeting, Stephen Van Wormer operated the camera
color photograph	taken by Susan Walter on the day of the interview
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ephemera donated by the informant:	NA

Transcript:

WC = William Caldwell

SW = Susan Walter

SW: Can you please tell me your name?

WC: My name is William Hughes Caldwell, Jr.

SW: Where were you born?

WC: I was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. However, it was by accident. My parents were returning from Europe, and their home where they were, and their great ancestors were all in Pennsylvania.

SW: When were you born?

WC: I was born December 22nd, 1923.

SW: Can you tell me how you got here?

WC: Yes. I certainly can. My wife was one of six fourth graders at Grant School, who became very, very close friends. And, unique story, my wife was my father's second cousin. This is how I met her. She worked in New York for a year and stopped to see my father on the way back to San Diego, and my mother called and said, "You've got to come home from college, and meet this young lady."

SW: What was her name?

WC: Marion Hughes. At any rate, these six girls in Grant were very, very close friends, and all but one married out of state men. I think the husbands are better friends now than the wives. Now,

unfortunately, my wife passed away in 2000, and Joan Crone and I are now married. She keeps the name Crone simply because she has the business Crone's Cobblestone Cottage [Bed and Breakfast].

SW: Can you tell me about some of the friends you had here?

WC: Yes. I live currently on Lark Street, where I've lived for 35 years. And when I moved there, my two neighbors across the street were Mary Ward and Barbara Marsh. Both, I think, very active in Mission Hills. I think both are deceased now. And Mary, of course, left the neighborhood shortly thereafter, but she didn't leave Mission Hills, she just relocated. And Barbara Marsh was the first one that I met on the block, and she was a philatelist, she collected stamps, and so she would buy them in bunches, get out the blocks and then sell me the others, which I used for postage. She also would tell me how to vote in every election.

SW: Oh, did she? Well, did you do what she said?

WC: No. Not all the time.

SW: Can you tell me about some of your other friends that you had here?

WC: Yes. In 1989 I had bypass surgery in my leg, so I started walking, and I walked all over Mission Hills. I imagine most people have seen me walking at one time or another. And of course I have a dog, and I walk him every morning. It's just a delight to meet people on the walk. They're all so friendly. Most of them. A few that aren't, but by and large, they're very friendly people. And I like to think of myself as very friendly.

SW: How have you seen this neighborhood change?

WC: Well, we have more restaurants. I miss the Ace. My wife worked there, her mother worked there, Oh! I meant to tell you. Two young ladies – I'll call them young – Betty Baker and Patty Molineaux, and they were part of the six girls that were here with my wife, and Betty Baker's father is the one who had the Ace Drug Store for years. When it was up at the corner of Goldfinch and Washington. But I remember they had a marvelous hardware store up on the block. I think I've used many, many of the stores that we've had locally.

SW: Thank you, William.

WC: You bet.

END OF INTERVIEW

2. JUDY CARTER

Uptown Short Oral Interview Transcript
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ephemera donated by the informant:	NA

Transcript:

JC = Judy Carter

SW = Susan Walter

SW: Please tell me, what is your name?

JC: Judy Carter.

SW: When were you born?

JC: 1941.

SW: Where were you born?

JC: Buffalo, New York.

SW: When did you first come to this area of California?

JC: My folks moved to Chula Vista when I was thirteen. Then I moved up to Mission Hills in 1967 after my first child was born.

SW: Why did you come here?

JC: To Mission Hills?

SW: Yes.

JC: Well, we decided to move from the Chula Vista area after I was married, and with the new baby and some work, we wanted to be closer to town. And this area's wonderful, because you get the feeling that you are in a very quiet neighborhood, but you're quite close to downtown. The vicinity is wonderful.

SW: Where did you live?

JC: I live now on 4310 Avalon Drive, but before that I lived on Goldfinch, I don't remember the number. But it was South Mission Hills, because it was that little tiny bit of Goldfinch that's up on the hill.

SW: What would you like to talk about?

JC: I think the part that I know that's interesting is the house I live in now. Because in doing some research we found that it was built in 1907 by an associate of Gill, and a Judge Sloan built the house. We bought this house from Lucia Fisher, who was Lucia Sloan Fisher, and it was her grandfather that was Judge Sloan, and it originally was on 10 acres. Of course it's been subdivided. And in a round about way, there's a connection by marriage to my husband's family, so it's still in the family circle, so to speak.

SW: Tell me a little bit about your husband.

JC: My husband is Tom Carter, he's a developer, and he's been on the board of the historical society, and he's very interested in the history of San Diego. He was born up here in Mercy Hospital, and he lived in Hillcrest until we were married.

SW: Is there anything else you wanted to talk about of this neighborhood?

JC: I love the neighborhood, because, as I said, it has a nice quiet feel, even being right in the center of town. My oldest son was born deaf, and he could walk up to any of the stores and got to know people. I never felt apprehensive about letting him go, and that was a very nice perk for me. And it was a very friendly area and I would like to see the older homes and their styles protected.

SW: You mentioned your son was deaf, were there medical specialists (nearby that you consulted)?

JC: I was teaching kindergarten and I got German measles from the children in my classroom when I was pregnant.

SW: Actually, what I was interested in was finding out if you had your doctors in this local area, because there's quite a doctor's area here.

JC: Well, our doctors were in Hillcrest, so it wasn't far.

SW: What stores did you go to?

JC: Oh, we went to the Ace Drug Store, and used the postal service there, and we went to the Keifer's store.

SW: Thank you very much, Judy.

END OF INTERVIEW

3. JOAN CRONE

Uptown Short Oral Interview Transcript

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Oral History Report

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Transcript:

JC = Joan Crone
SW = Susan Walter

SW: Please tell me your name?

JC: I'm Joan Crone.

SW: When were you born?

JC: 1933.

SW: Where were you born?

JC: In Chicago, Illinois.

SW: When did you first come here?

JC: I came here in 1969 when my [then] husband was made headmaster of Francis Parker School.

SW: Where did you live?

JC: I lived in what I was told was a house that the school owned that belonged originally to Kate Sessions. And it was a wonderful house, especially for two little boys that were 8 and 10 when we first moved in. There were lots of nooks and crannies, and wonderful places to run around in.

SW: These were your children?

JC: Yes.

SW: Can you tell me a little bit more about Frances Parker?

JC: Well, Frances Parker was started in 1912 and it was modeled after a school that was in Chicago, Illinois that was pretty progressive. It was sort of, you learn by doing. And the building itself was designed by William Templeton and he and his wife started the school. So the school had not only a lot of history as far as how the school was done and conducted, but also the classrooms all had doors that opened completely to a courtyard, and it was really a wonderful atmosphere. And I'm afraid this year they're changing all of that. It lasted almost 100 years.

SW: Can you tell me what your role was at the school?

JC: I was the headmaster's wife and my two sons went to school there. One of them still teaches there, and my two grandchildren go to school there now.

SW: Can you tell me a little bit about some of the other students who went there?

JC: We had a lot of young men that had done well in the community, we had Thomas Sefton's son. There's just so many, I can't really pick out particular ones.

SW: How about the teachers? Where did they come from?

JC: They came from all over the country. There were quite a few there that are, well, at least four or five of them are retiring this year that were there when I first started there in 1969. So there was a real feeling of community and longevity in the school, like family.

SW: Can you tell me a little bit about your life living there on the campus?

JC: Well, I actually wasn't there too long, we moved a block away when we bought our own house. And then, shortly after my husband took over the school, the school was divided. We got the boys section, or the equivalent of the boys [school] at Bishop's, and so the school had two campuses after that. There was the lower school campus, and the upper school campus.

SW: Can you tell me little bit about how the grounds may have changed?

JC: Quite frankly, I haven't been over there to look around since they started the remodeling. Before that, it was pretty much the same for a long time. It had a lot of charm.

SW: Were the students there mostly drawn from the local area?

JC: Yes. It was a day school, it wasn't a boarding school.

SW: Did you have students from other parts of the country?

JC: Yes. People who moved. We had a really pretty good mix of different ethnic groups and a lot of the teachers really worked hard to get their children to go to school there too. And we did have a, I think they're still doing it, we had a very good scholarship program to help out some of the students who couldn't afford it.

SW: Were there special events at the school that you can recall?

JC: They had a good theatre group, so they put on about three really big productions every year that were quite spectacular. And there was always something going on. Pet day...

SW: Pet day?

JC: Yes, all the little children would bring their pets and have a little parade. And there was always a fair and an auction that the Mother's Club put on to raise money, and that was a pretty big event. And we did special things for different grades.

SW: All right, thank you very much.

JC: You're welcome.

END OF INTERVIEW

4. HELEN HILLMAN

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Uptown Historic Context and Oral History Report

Oral History Report

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Transcript:

HH = Helen Hillman

SW = Susan Walter

SW: Tell me what your name is, please?

HH: My name's Helen Hillman. Actually, Helen Carter Hillman. And we're sister in laws.

SW: When were you born?

HH: 1939.

SW: Where were you born?

HH: At Mercy Hospital in San Diego.

SW: So you're a native, huh?

HH: Yes. And so are my parents.

SW: So are your parents?

HH: Yes. And, actually, my grandparents.

SW: So your grandparents were the first to come here?

HH: I believe so.

SW: Do you know why they came here? To the San Diego area?

HH: (shook her head negative)

SW: Can you tell me where you lived?

HH: We lived on West Pennsylvania in Hillcrest, [during my school days. My mother still lives in the house my brothers and I grew up in. I went away to college and then joined the Peace Corps. After the Peace Corps I began teaching in San Diego and lived in an apartment. I married and we bought a house on Sutter Street. We lived there for five (5) years, and then bought the house on Ingleside where my husband and I still live.]

SW: Can you tell me about some of the stores you shopped at?

HH: Oh, the Sutter Street Market was the one that was across the street from the duplex that my first husband and I owned, and course, it's now gone.

SW: What was that market like?

HH: It was just a little kind of mom and pop market where you could go and buy fresh vegetables, and then you could run across the street and buy a loaf of bread or quart of milk.

SW: (Pointing on the questionnaire.) And then you have this one here?

HH: Ron Keifer's. It's where the Espresso [Mio], I think that's what it's called (is now). It's on Fort Stockton. Used to take up the whole building, and now there's just a little tiny coffee shop there, and two other little businesses on the other side, but they're all gone now, too.

SW: What did you buy at Ron Keifer's?

HH: Meat. They had prime meat.

SW: So was it a butcher?

HH: No. They had a butcher shop. And then they had fresh vegetables, and a small variety of canned goods and things like that.

SW: Do you know if milk was delivered here in this neighborhood, or did most people go to the store?

HH: When I was a child it was delivered to our house. My mother used to put out those little stake things where you said what you wanted, and [the milkman would] bring it in a little wire [tray].

SW: Can you tell me a little bit about some of the schools?

HH: Well, I went to Florence, the original Florence, which was a lovely building. It's now gone.

SW: What grades (did) you go there?

HH: Kindergarten through sixth. [Next] I went to Roosevelt, which was also a nice building, and it's gone. [Then to] San Diego High, which I dearly loved, and it's now gone.

SW: Can you tell me a story about when you were in grade school? Do you recall anything interesting happening there?

HH: When I was in the sixth grade, we were on the top floor, and all the rest of the building had been condemned, except for this one [corner] room. We would walk across a [bridge then down] a fire escape. We would walk up and down the fire escape to get [into our room], because the rest of top floor had been condemned. And of course, you would not be allowed to do that anymore, but we did it then.

We used to have wonderful Halloween carnivals [at Florence]. The whole playground would [be draped in] black tarps to block it off from the street, and they would have [pony rides, games, and food]. It was a great school.

SW: Thank you very much.

HH: You're welcome.

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Transcript:

DM = Dominic Martina

SW = Susan Walter

SW: Please tell me your name?

DM: My name's Dominic Martina.

SW: Where were you born?

DM: I was born in Lexington, Kentucky, the heart of the blue grass.

SW: When were you born?

DM: 1945.

SW: How did you get out here?

DM: I came to San Diego in 1976 from Riverside County. I had belonged to a Catholic order of brothers in Riverside, and we had part of our community in San Diego, and when I left the community, I wanted to live in San Diego.

SW: Why in particular did you want to live in San Diego?

DM: Because the first time I saw it I fell in love with it.

SW: You did? Where did you live?

DM: I've lived at...quite a few different places. I've lived at Richmond and Robinson, I've lived on Essex Street, and I've lived on Park Blvd. I worked at Warwick's in La Jolla back in the 70s. I started working at the Ace Drug Store in 1982.

SW: Tell us about the Ace Drug Store.

DM: At the time I started working at the Ace, the final owner had owned the store since 1979. The store had a small postal substation within it, and I was hired to be the postman. So that was a very visible little spot and consequently I came to know either by name or face most of the people who either had businesses or lived in the community because they all used the drugstore, and they all used the post office.

SW: Can you tell me about some of the people whom you remember by name?

DM: Yes. I remember Terry [the owner of the Huddle] and her children Bruce and Bonnie.³¹ I remember Robert Stadge who owned Mission Hills florist who was quite a wonderfully funny man. I remember Quint and George who were the owners of Ideas Incorporated. I remember Piret and George Mouger who had the wonderful Piret's that was a business that was years ahead of its time. It's very sad that it's since gone.

SW: Can you tell me what the business comprised of?

DM: That business was Patisserie Charcoterie Boulangerie³² which was a very upscale and wonderful restaurant for the early 1980s. It was like a deli restaurant. You could either eat there or you could go in and buy things to take home. It was all very wonderful, wonderful.³³

SW: What kind of company is Ideas Incorporated?

DM: Ideas Incorporated was an establishment that sold decorative artifacts from all over the world, and clothing. They had some of the finest men and women's clothing you could find in San Diego.

SW: Where did they get their supplies?

DM: George and Quint, the owners were the buyers. They went on trips abroad [and in the U.S.].

SW: Around the world?

DM: Possibly.

SW: Any other people that you would like to talk about?³⁴

³¹ Ruth Hendricks, current Huddle owner, bought it from Terry.

³² Dominic translated this as "deli / cake shop / bakery."

³³ Located at where The Gathering now is.

³⁴ Dominic added these details later: "Andy and Miguel, who owned Oz Bottle Shop (which was where the A La Francais is now located) were regular Ace customers. Jay Goodwin (current owner of Mission Hills TV) was an Ace Drugs delivery boy while in high school. Also, Dan and his brother (were customers) when they originally opened The Gathering. There were many more. It felt like and was a true neighborhood."

DM: I just remember it as a wonderful community, and the fact that it was a community where everybody walked around. There was a lot of foot traffic on the sidewalks. Being in the drug store, I just got to see so many interesting people. There were a lot of colorful people in Mission Hills.

SW: That I can believe. Thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW

6. LAURENCE MILLER

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Everyone was photographed. A brief questionnaire was distributed to all the participants; not everyone returned them. Selection of the eight individuals, from the questionnaires, was based on the number of years the respondents had lived in the area. Recording equipment consisted of a Sony cassette recorder, played at regular speed. The tape recording was transcribed by Rachael Van Wormer. Susan Walter edited the transcript. Additionally, the interview was videotaped by Stephen Van Wormer on a Sony 120X digital Super Steady Shot video camera.

Note: The transcript is not completely verbatim. "Um hm", "uh uh" and similar sounds have been turned to "yes" and "no". Pauses, changes in direction of thought, and some wording has been deleted to make the information clear. Words inside parentheses () are added to complete a sentence. The informant did not review the manuscript. Sections not pertinent to the interview are not included.

Paper copies of the final transcript went to the City of San Diego, Mike Singleton, and the interviewee. A floppy disk listing all oral interview participants in the Uptown project was included with the materials submitted to the City. Materials filled out by the informant, and all items submitted to the City are listed on the addendum attached to the end of this transcript.

Final disposition of the materials submitted to the City is to be the San Diego Historical Society Research Archives in Balboa Park.

Uptown Historic Context and Oral History Report
Oral History Report

The following items were included with this interview. They are archived at:

San Diego Historical Society
1649 El Prado
Balboa Park
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 232-6203

ITEM	NOTES
cassette tape	2 cassettes taped at regular speed; the informant was one of 8 who spoke individually for 5 minutes; this was followed by a group discussion
video tape	2 tapes of the whole meeting, Stephen Van Wormer operated the camera
color photograph	taken by Susan Walter on the day of the interview
compact disk	includes 22 transcripts from the Uptown project
release form	City of San Diego Historic Sites Board
map	showing the project area with areas of interest indicated by the informant
pedigree	a pedigree list filled out by the informant
questionnaire	filled in by the informant
ephemera donated by the informant:	NA

Transcript:

LM = Laurence Miller
SW = Susan Walter

SW: Can you please tell me your name?

LM: Lawrence Miller.

SW: When and where were you born?

LM: I was born in 1944. Mercy Hospital.

SW: Where did you live in this area?

LM: The first year of my life I lived at 233 West Juniper, which would be considered part of Banker's Hill now. And then I moved to 8th Avenue in Hillcrest, and from there to Mission Hills in the 1950's.

SW: What (subject) would you like to start with?

LM: I think one of the issues that I have is just watching older buildings slowly but surely disappearing from San Diego, especially in the Hillcrest and Mission Hills area. Because many of the

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♦ IS Architecture, Ione R. Stiegler, Architect, 5649 La Jolla Blvd, La Jolla, California 92037 ♦
♦ Walter Enterprises, Stephen Van Wormer, Historian and Susan Walter, Oral Historian,
238 2nd Avenue, Chula Vista, California 91910 ♦

old homes with the process of time, even though they are of architectural significance have been torn down for one reason or the other. It's hard to watch that happen.

Secondarily, one of the things that has certainly bothered me is the fact that when new buildings are put up they may not architecturally fit in with what was there previously in the community itself. In other words, they're very plain. In fact, the person who was previous to me, Helen (Hillman), had talked about how the schools were reconstructed after they had been torn down because they were not earthquake safe. Essentially, they looked like any government building, I mean, they could be like a prison, and lack any architectural refinement.

SW: Can you tell me about some of your neighbors? Friends?

LM: I lived in three different areas, and certainly it's interesting that during my lifetime there was a progression, from what we would call Banker's Hill people moving more and more to Mission Hills who were civic leaders or in the process of developing the city, so one can say that there were a number of the old families, or people who were involved in business who are not only in Banker's Hill, but also in Hillcrest and Mission Hills. The Fletchers and the Crabtrees, and other families who moved on elsewhere afterwards but were sort of fixtures around town.

SW: Can you tell me a little bit about Pernicano's?

LM: Pernicano's was the place that everyone went for pizza, as well as Caesar's, which was almost next door, for Italian food. You know in San Diego, there weren't a whole lot of choices back in the '40's and '50's in regards to, you know, they're not even ethnic foods these days, but in those days they would have been the two places where you could really get different foods.

It's hard to believe. There weren't a whole lot of tacos or enchiladas, either, and so, it's unbelievable how homogeneous cuisine was. Pernicano's was there, and Caesars, and Hillcrest we were talking about, there was a local baker, and there were a few other places, but Pernicano's and Caesar's are gone today.

SW: Can you tell me about the bakery?

LM: The bakery was a lovely little bakery run by, as far as I could tell as a child, a number of women who were happy to cook good bakery goods that today would be considered very, very fattening and unhealthful, and were happy at times to give cookies to kids who wandered in during their lunch hour who looked hungry, so it was a friendly place.

SW: They gave them to you?

LM: Yeah. You'd walk in, and they'd say "Oh, here's a cookie."

SW: Free? You didn't have to pay?

LM: Free. No, no – we didn't pay. But, you know, in a sense, that was the "feel" of the communities of Hillcrest and Mission Hills. I think everybody knew each other, and was certainly familiar with each other. It acted as a community, as it still does to this day.

SW: Thank you very much.

END OF INTERVIEW

7. CAESAR ORIOL

Uptown Short Oral Interview Transcript
July 14, 2003 by Susan D. Walter
(Pictured Above)

Procedure and Method:

For the City of San Diego's Uptown Oral History project, Susan Walter interviewed eight people individually for 5 minutes prior to an open group discussion on July 14, 2003, in a meeting room of the Mission Hills United Methodist Church, located at 4044 Lark Street. The topic was Mission Hills.

Mike Singleton is a community activist. He runs the Residents/Design Subcommittee of the Mission Hills Association, which is involved in researching the history and preservation of the area of Mission Hills. He organized the meeting, which was attended by approximately 30 people.

Everyone was photographed. A brief questionnaire was distributed to all the participants; not everyone returned them. Selection of the eight individuals, from the questionnaires, was based on the number of years the respondents had lived in the area. Recording equipment consisted of a Sony cassette recorder, played at regular speed. The tape recording was transcribed by Rachael Van Wormer. Susan Walter edited the transcript. Additionally, the interview was videotaped by Stephen Van Wormer on a Sony 120X digital Super Steady Shot video camera.

Note: The transcript is not completely verbatim. "Um hm", "uh uh" and similar sounds have been turned to "yes" and "no". Pauses, changes in direction of thought, and some wording has been deleted to make the information clear. Words inside parentheses () are added to complete a sentence. Corrections made by the informant are inserted in brackets [], or footnoted. Sections not pertinent to the interview are not included.

Paper copies of the final transcript went to the City of San Diego, Mike Singleton, and the interviewee. A floppy disk listing all oral interview participants in the Uptown project was included with the materials submitted to the City. Materials filled out by the informant, and all items submitted to the City are listed on the addendum attached to the end of this transcript.

Final disposition of the materials submitted to the City is to be the San Diego Historical Society Research Archives in Balboa Park.

Oral History Report

The following items were included with this interview. They are archived at:

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1649 El Prado
Balboa Park
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 232-6203

ITEM	NOTES
cassette tape	2 cassettes taped at regular speed; the informant was one of 8 who spoke individually for 5 minutes; this was followed by a group discussion
video tape	2 tapes of the whole meeting, Stephen Van Wormer operated the camera
color photograph	taken by Susan Walter on the day of the interview
compact disk	includes 22 transcripts from the Uptown project
release form	City of San Diego Historic Sites Board
map	showing the project area with areas of interest indicated by the informant
pedigree	a pedigree list filled out by the informant
questionnaire	filled in by the informant
ephemera donated by the informant:	NA

Transcript:

CO = Caesar Oriol
SW = Susan Walter

SW: Can you please tell me your name?

CO: My name is Caesar Oriol.

SW: When were you born?

CO: 1949.

SW: Where were you were born?

CO: Here in San Diego. Mission Hills area.

SW: So you've lived here all your life?

CO: All my life.

SW: Where did you live?

CO: I lived on Goldfinch for a little while. I but I grew up in, on Ibis Street. I grew up there with my family.

SW: When did your parents come here?

CO: 1941.

SW: Why did they come here?

CO: During the war. To work at the Convair area in a ship yard.

SW: What would you like to talk about?

CO: I got started in Mission Hills some years back or so when we had some trees being torn down and I wanted to get involved with the tree issues.

SW: Yes.

CO: Per se, I visited many parts of California, like for example, Pasadena, Sherman Oaks, San Mateo, up in the south of San Francisco. I noticed a lot of the communities up there were like what we have here. Older homes back in the twenties and thirties. But their landscape there was really mature and well planned out. So, I noticed all that, and how beautiful it looked. I wanted to get involved with it in that way. That's how I got started.

I lived across the street from the Piggly Wiggly.

SW: You did?

CO: Way back when. Some people here know about it. There was a little pet store where that little French boutique is right now, and they used to have a big monkey bar and cage for the monkeys in.

SW: Really?

CO: Yeah, and they escaped one time, and they went over to our house, and we were little toddlers. And we were all afraid of them.

SW: So you dealt with escaped monkeys!

Can you tell me a little bit about the schools that you went to?

CO: Grant School. The old Grant School, with the old architectural designs. St. Vincent's. And graduated from San Diego High.

SW: Can you tell me about some of your neighbors?

CO: Yes. We lived at the end of Jackdaw Street, and I have a friend, John, he lives across the street from me. He bought his grandmother's house, and our neighbors to the north, the Bernsteins, they've been there since 1963. We moved in there in '95. They had mentioned ... they have a studio in the back of the house, and when the Spirit of St. Louis was being built, Charles Lindberg, he rented that.

SW: Really?

CO: And so there was a little history they were giving to us (for that house).

SW: Yeah.

CO: And they weren't sure whether it was that house, our little studio or, what, but it was either of those two houses. So that's a little history of that plot.

SW: Okay, thank you very much.

END OF INTERVIEW

8. ARLENE VAN DE WETERING

Uptown Short Oral Interview Transcript

June 14, 2003 by Susan D. Walter



Procedure and Method:

For the City of San Diego's Uptown Oral History project, Susan Walter interviewed eight people individually for 5 minutes prior to an open group discussion on July 14, 2003, in a meeting room of the Mission Hills United Methodist Church, located at 4044 Lark Street. The topic was Mission Hills.

Mike Singleton is a community activist. He runs the Residents/Design Subcommittee of the Mission Hills Association, which is involved in researching the history and preservation of the area of Mission Hills. He organized the meeting, which was attended by approximately 30 people.

Everyone was photographed. A brief questionnaire was distributed to all the participants; not everyone returned them. Selection of the eight individuals, from the questionnaires, was based on the number of years the respondents had lived in the area. Recording equipment consisted of a Sony cassette recorder, played at regular speed. The tape recording was transcribed by Rachael Van Wormer. Susan Walter edited the transcript. Additionally, the interview was videotaped by Stephen Van Wormer on a Sony 120X digital Super Steady Shot video camera.

Note: The transcript is not completely verbatim. "Um hm", "uh uh" and similar sounds have been turned to "yes" and "no". Pauses, changes in direction of thought, and some wording has been deleted to make the information clear. Words inside parentheses () are added to complete a sentence. Corrections made by the informant are inserted in brackets [], or footnoted. Sections not pertinent to the interview are not included.

Paper copies of the final transcript went to the City of San Diego, Mike Singleton, and the interviewee. A floppy disk listing all oral interview participants in the Uptown project was included

with the materials submitted to the City. Materials filled out by the informant, and all items submitted to the City are listed on the addendum attached to the end of this transcript.

Final disposition of the materials submitted to the City is to be the San Diego Historical Society Research Archives in Balboa Park.

Transcript:

AV = Arlene Van de Wetering

SW = Susan Walter

SW: This is Susan Walter. (I am) doing oral interviews of eight people. The project is called Uptown. The date is July the 14th 2003. We are in the [Mission Hills] Methodist Church.

Would you please tell me your name?

AV: Arlene Van de Wetering.

SW: When were you born?

AV: 1936.

SW: Where were you born?

AV: In Orange County, California.

SW: Can you tell me when you first came to the Uptown area?

AV: 1963.

SW: Why did you come here?

AV: Well, we were buying a house and we were looking in the classified ads. We came and looked at our house and it was cooler here than it was in the college area.

SW: Can you tell me where you lived?

AV: We lived in the college area; we were renting at the time.

SW: Can you tell me what subjects you'd like to talk about?

AV: Well, Pioneer Park and some of our neighbors who have been in the area longer than we have.

SW: Why don't you start with Pioneer Park?

AV: Pioneer Park was developed as a passive park. There was quite a bit of controversy because of the old Catholic cemetery. Our kids used to go through there on Halloween nights and play there. A lot of headstones had already been broken or damaged.

Many of the people who were involved with that project are now gone. Mary Ward and Barbara Marsh were very heavily involved in it. And I felt it was a worthwhile thing, and I think it worked out very well. There came a time when some of the neighbors wanted to have playground equipment,

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238 2nd Avenue, Chula Vista, California 91910 ♦

principally for toddlers. The mothers would take their toddlers there, and that seemed like a good idea. Someone pointed out that they were going to put the playground equipment above what had been the graves of the children and what a sacrilege that was, and I thought it was appropriate, myself. But for the most part, I think the use of the park has been beneficial to the community, but I would be interested to know if it still has that designation as a passive park, because it's no longer used in quite that way. It's supposed to be more of a place to go and rest and relax and contemplate. There were some neighbors here who objected to that long ago and some of them may still live here, I don't know.

SW: Can you talk a little bit about some of your neighbors?

AV: Where we live on St. James Place, we're on a cul-de-sac alley, and (of the) people who were there before us – Pauline Murphy is still living, and I think they moved there in the forties. Holly Ward is there, Holly Wilkens Ward, Andrea and Myron Lyon. I think Andrea's a native San Diegan.

It seems to me she can remember when Mission Valley flooded many years ago. And there's still quite a number (still there). Most of the other houses, I guess have been sold subsequently, but there is still a number of people in that area who were there when we moved in.³⁵

SW: Okay. Thank you!

END OF INTERVIEW

³⁵ Later, Arlene added as a Note: Others still living in our alley since before 1963 (both on Alameda): Barbara Kiser, widow of Dr. John Kiser. Don Smoyer bought the family home from his parents. I believe his grandparents once lived in the brick house at the "Y" intersection formed by Ft. Stockton and Sunset Blvd. (Signed) Arlene V. d. W.

H. Video Interviews

1. ROBERT & BETTY BAKER

Uptown Videotaped Oral Interview

August 7, 2003 by Susan D. Walter



Procedure and Method:

For the City of San Diego's Uptown Oral History project, Susan Walter interviewed Betty Baker and her husband, Robert Baker on August 7, 2003. The setting was the living room of their home.

The interview was videotaped by Stephen Van Wormer on a Sony 120X digital Super

Steady Shot video camera. It also was tape recorded on a Sony cassette recorder, played at regular speed. No transcript was produced.

A floppy disk listing all oral interview participants in the Uptown project was included with the materials submitted to the City. Materials filled out by the informant, and all items submitted to the City are listed on the addendum attached to the end of this summary.

Final disposition of the materials submitted to the City is to be the San Diego Historical Society Research Archives in Balboa Park.

Note: Topic of major discussion was Betty's father had owned the Ace Drug Store for 42 years and the changes in the neighborhood.

The following items were included with the original of this transcript. They are archived at:

San Diego Historical Society
1649 El Prado
Balboa Park
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 232-6203

ITEM	NOTES
cassette tape	taped at regular speed
video tape	digital, as described previously
color photographs	of both participants, taken by Susan Walter on the day of the interview
floppy diskette	the diskette lists all participants in the Uptown Oral Interview project (inclusive), contains all 14 full length transcripts, and the 5 minute transcripts from the group interview
release forms	from both participants, City of San Diego Historic Sites Board
map	showing the project area with areas of interest indicated by the informant
pedigree	from both participants, a pedigree list filled out by the informant
ephemera donated by the informant:	NA

2. PAT COMER

Uptown Videotaped Oral Interview

July 30, 2003 by Susan D. Walter



Procedure and Method:

For the City of San Diego's Uptown Oral History project, Susan Walter interviewed Pat Comer on July 30, 2003. The setting was the dining area of his home.

The interview was videotaped by Stephen Van Wormer on a Sony 120X digital Super Steady Shot video camera. It also was tape recorded on a Sony cassette recorder, played at regular speed. No transcript was produced.

A floppy disk listing all oral interview participants in the Uptown project was included with the materials submitted to the City. Materials filled out by the informant, and all items submitted to the City are listed on the addendum attached to the end of this summary.

Final disposition of the materials submitted to the City is to be the San Diego Historical Society Research Archives in Balboa Park.

Note: Pat is a real estate agent, and the son of a real estate agent and a doctor. He described a number of locales, his childhood, and about being part of the medical community. He knows the area intimately.

Uptown Historic Context and Oral History Report

Oral History Report

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Balboa Park
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 232-6203

ITEM	NOTES
cassette tape	taped at regular speed
video tape	digital, as described previously
color photograph	taken by Susan Walter on the day of the interview
floppy diskette	the diskette lists all participants in the Uptown Oral Interview project (inclusive), contains all 14 full length transcripts, and the 5 minute transcripts from the group interview
release form	City of San Diego Historic Sites Board
map	showing the project area with area of interest indicated by the informant
pedigree	a pedigree list filled out by the informant
ephemera donated by the informant:	an additional map filled out by the informant indicating the location of a number of features in the Uptown area that had been referred to by Uptown oral interview participants

3. ESTELLE DUNST

Uptown Videotaped Oral Interview
August 14, 2003 by Susan D. Walter



Procedure and Method:

For the City of San Diego's Uptown Oral History project, Susan Walter interviewed Estelle Dunst on August 14, 2003. Following this, her husband, Lou Dunst, was interviewed. The setting was the living room of their home.

The interview was videotaped by Stephen Van Wormer on a Sony 120X digital Super Steady Shot video camera. It also was tape recorded on a Sony cassette recorder, played at regular speed. No transcript was produced.

A floppy disk listing all oral interview participants in the Uptown project was included with the materials submitted to the City. Materials filled out by the informant, and all items submitted to the City are listed on the addendum attached to the end of this summary.

Final disposition of the materials submitted to the City is to be the San Diego Historical Society Research Archives in Balboa Park.

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♦ IS Architecture, Ione R. Stiegler, Architect, 5649 La Jolla Blvd, La Jolla, California 92037 ♦
♦ Walter Enterprises, Stephen Van Wormer, Historian and Susan Walter, Oral Historian,
238 2nd Avenue, Chula Vista, California 91910 ♦

Note: Estelle spoke about her lifetime in the Jewish community, her association with Temple Beth Israel, her mother's health food store, her uncle's delicatessen, and her experiences as a hairdresser.

The following items were included with the original of this transcript. They are archived at:

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1649 El Prado
Balboa Park
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 232-6203

ITEM	NOTES
cassette tape	taped at regular speed
video tape	digital, as described previously
color photograph	taken by Susan Walter on the day of the interview
floppy diskette	the diskette lists all participants in the Uptown Oral Interview project (inclusive), contains all 14 full length transcripts, and the 5 minute transcripts from the group interview
release form	City of San Diego Historic Sites Board
Map	showing the project area with areas of interest indicated by the informant
Pedigree	a pedigree list filled out by the informant
ephemera donated by the informant:	NA

4. LOU DUNST

Uptown Videotaped Oral Interview
August 14, 2003 by Susan D. Walter



Procedure and Method:

For the City of San Diego's Uptown Oral History project, Susan Walter interviewed Lou Dunst on August 14, 2003. Previous to this, his wife, Estelle Dunst, was interviewed. The setting was the living room of their home.

The interview was videotaped by Stephen Van Wormer on a Sony 120X digital Super Steady Shot video camera. It also was tape recorded on a Sony cassette recorder, played at regular speed. No transcript was produced.

A floppy disk listing all oral interview participants in the Uptown project was included with the materials submitted to the City. Materials filled out by the informant, and all items submitted to the City are listed on the addendum attached to the end of this summary.

Uptown Historic Context and Oral History Report
Oral History Report

Final disposition of the materials submitted to the City is to be the San Diego Historical Society Research Archives in Balboa Park.

Note: Lou described his work, which when he first arrived in the Uptown area was as a door to door peddler. He is a survivor of the Holocaust, and described some of his experiences in the concentration camps.

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(619) 232-6203

ITEM	NOTES
cassette tape	taped at regular speed
video tape	digital, as described previously
color photograph	taken by Susan Walter on the day of the interview
floppy diskette	the diskette lists all participants in the Uptown Oral Interview project (inclusive), contains all 14 full length transcripts, and the 5 minute transcripts from the group interview
release form	City of San Diego Historic Sites Board
Map	showing the project area with areas of interest indicated by the informant
Pedigree	a pedigree list filled out by the informant
ephemera donated by the informant:	business card Video tape: "From the Ashes" Judge Norbert Ehrenfreund and Lou Dunst letter: The National Judicial College letter: United States Holocaust Museum letter: Yad Vashem, The Archives

5. PHIL KLAUBER

Uptown Videotaped Oral Interview

August 4, 2003 by Susan D. Walter



Procedure and Method:

For the City of San Diego's Uptown Oral History project, Susan Walter interviewed Phil Klauber on August 4, 2003. The setting was the parlor of his home.

The interview was videotaped by Stephen Van Wormer on a Sony 120X digital Super Steady Shot video camera. It also was tape recorded on a Sony cassette recorder, played at regular speed. No transcript was produced.

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♦ IS Architecture, Ione R. Stiegler, Architect, 5649 La Jolla Blvd, La Jolla, California 92037 ♦
♦ Walter Enterprises, Stephen Van Wormer, Historian and Susan Walter, Oral Historian,
238 2nd Avenue, Chula Vista, California 91910 ♦

A floppy disk listing all oral interview participants in the Uptown project was included with the materials submitted to the City. Materials filled out by the informant, and all items submitted to the City are listed on the addendum attached to the end of this summary.

Final disposition of the materials submitted to the City is to be the San Diego Historical Society Research Archives in Balboa Park.

Note: Phil is a retired engineer, and a former president of the San Diego Historical Society. He also described details of working for his father, a world renowned rattlesnake expert.

The following items were included with the original of this transcript. They are archived at:

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ITEM	NOTES
cassette tape	taped at regular speed
video tape	digital, as described previously
color photograph	taken by Susan Walter on the day of the interview
floppy diskette	the diskette lists all participants in the Uptown Oral Interview project (inclusive), contains all 14 full length transcripts, and the 5 minute transcripts from the group interview
release form	City of San Diego Historic Sites Board
map	NA
pedigree	NA
ephemera donated by the informant:	NA

6. CRAIG NOEL

Uptown Videotaped Oral Interview

August 5, 2003 by Susan D. Walter



Procedure and Method:

For the City of San Diego's Uptown Oral History project, Susan Walter interviewed Craig Noel on August 5, 2003. The setting was the den of his home.

The interview was videotaped by Stephen Van Wormer on a Sony 120X digital Super Steady Shot video camera. It also was tape recorded on a Sony cassette recorder, played at regular speed. Also present were Jason Connors and Rachael Van Wormer. No transcript was produced.

City of San Diego, Planning Department, 202 C Street, San Diego, California 92101 ♦
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♦ Walter Enterprises, Stephen Van Wormer, Historian and Susan Walter, Oral Historian,
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Uptown Historic Context and Oral History Report

Oral History Report

A floppy disk listing all oral interview participants in the Uptown project was included with the materials submitted to the City. Materials filled out by the informant, and all items submitted to the City are listed on the addendum attached to the end of this summary.

Final disposition of the materials submitted to the City is to be the San Diego Historical Society Research Archives in Balboa Park.

Note: Mr. Noel has been associated with the Globe Theatres for decades. Another topic of interest was that his house originally was a carriage house for the home owned by the son of the man who built the U.S. Grant Hotel.

The following items were included with the original of this transcript. They are archived at:

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(619) 232-6203

ITEM	NOTES
cassette tape	taped at regular speed
video tape	digital, as described previously
color photograph	taken by Susan Walter on the day of the interview
floppy diskette	the diskette lists all participants in the Uptown Oral Interview project (inclusive), contains all 14 full length transcripts, and the 5 minute transcripts from the group interview
release form	City of San Diego Historic Sites Board
map	showing the project area with area of interest indicated by the informant
pedigree	NA
ephemera donated by the informant:	NA

I. Forms and Questionnaires

Prior to the interviews most participants were asked to fill out a family history (Pedigree) form and a location map. Interviews were conducted with prepared sets of questions set up in the form of a checklist, so the interview would stay on topic. However, not all questions were asked of every informant; choices were made depending on the situation at hand. Additionally, informants were encouraged to follow their own train of thought, within certain parameters.

The following questions were used for the Uptown Oral Interviews. Sample forms are included following the questionnaires.

UPTOWN QUESTIONNAIRE: GENERAL QUESTIONS

Why did you first come here?

When did you first become associated with, or live in Uptown?

What was your first impression?

Where did you live?

Where did you go to school?

Where did you work?

Where did you attend church?

Where were the places you hung out or played?

Where did you shop (groceries, clothes)?

Who were your neighbors?

Who were your friends?

Who are some of the interesting people (that you didn't necessarily know)?

Can you tell about an interesting event?

How has the area changed?

What landmarks are missing?

Do you have any photographs, newspaper clippings, or memorabilia that you wish to share?

Is there anyone you would like to suggest to be interviewed for this project?

UPTOWN QUESTIONNAIRE: FAMILY AND PERSONAL HISTORY QUESTIONS

What is your full name?

When were you born?

Where were you born?

What was your father's name?

Where was he born?

What was your mother's name?

Where was she born?

What are the names of your siblings? Oldest to youngest?

Where are you in the line up of siblings?

Where did your parents meet?

How did you get to California / San Diego / Uptown?

What is your spouse's name?

When was he/she born?

Where was she/he born?

Where did you meet?

What are the names of your children (oldest to youngest)?

UPTOWN QUESTIONNAIRE: HOUSES & NEIGHBORHOODS

This project is called Uptown. What are the names of the neighborhoods as you know them?

Describe the types of people in your neighborhood when you first arrived.

Describe the house you lived in.

Outside.

Walk me through the floor plan.

Interesting features in the house.

Do you know when it was built?

Who were your next door neighbors?

Who were some other people you knew?

Can you tell me about an interesting event that occurred here?

Did you ride on the trolley?

Are there any houses / buildings you find particularly interesting?

Why?

Bridges?

Parks?

Public buildings?

Shopping?

Theatres?

Schools?

Churches

Other landmarks?

Plantings / trees / gardens?

UPTOWN QUESTIONNAIRE: WORK and EMPLOYMENT

What kind of work have you done?

Tell me about it –

Where was it located?

How did you get the job?

How did you get there (traveling)?

Who was your boss?

Tell me about him / her –

Who were some of the other people you worked with?

Did you wear a uniform?

Do you remember what you were paid?

What was a normal day like?

Tell me about an unusual event that occurred at work –

UPTOWN QUESTIONNAIRE: CHILDHOOD

What is your earliest memory here in Uptown?

Tell me about your family –

Father's work.

Mother's work.

Siblings.

Yourself.

Others who lived with you.

Where did you go to school?

What was the school like then?

Can you remember your teachers?

Who were the kids you hung around with?

Was there an event at school you can tell about?

Extracurricular activities?

Where did you go to hang out?

What did your family do on weekends?

Did you go to church?

Tell me about it –

New Years.

Religious holidays.

Easter.

4th of July.

Thanksgiving.

Halloween.

Christmas.

**IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONERS
WERE DEVELOPED FOR SPECIFIC GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS:**

UPTOWN QUESTIONNAIRE: DIVERSIONARY THEATER

When was Diversionary founded?

By whom?

Who thought up the name?

City of San Diego, Planning Department, 202 C Street, San Diego, California 92101 ♦
♦ IS Architecture, Ione R. Stiegler, Architect, 5649 La Jolla Blvd, La Jolla, California 92037 ♦
♦ Walter Enterprises, Stephen Van Wormer, Historian and Susan Walter, Oral Historian,
238 2nd Avenue, Chula Vista, California 91910 ♦

Oral History Report

Why was it founded?

Where was it located?

Did it move to other locations before it came here?

Where were they?

Can you tell me the names of early shows?

Have any of the performers become well known?

Has a history of Diversionary been written (newspapers, magazines)?

How did you become associated with it?

What is your position?

What do you do?

Have you had other positions with Diversionary?

When you first came here, what was your first goal for Diversionary?

Are you now implementing any changes in this venue?

What are the shows you have been associated with?

How are plays selected?

When a play is selected, what are the steps taken to get it into production?

What are some details about play production that you deal with that the general public is not usually aware of?

Tell me about your employees and coworkers.

Management.

Directors.

Producers.

Publicity.

Oral History Report

Actors.

Sound.

Lighting.

Custodians.

Box office.

Ushers.

Volunteers.

Other.

Walk me through your facility.

Public - box office.

Lobby.

Restrooms.

Theatre.

Actors - back stage entrance.

Dressing rooms.

Stage.

Theatre (audience).

Support facilities.

Prop storage areas.

Costume storage.

Light booth.

Sound equipment.

Curtains / screens.

This theatre is unusual because it is located upstairs. Has that affected operations here?

Interesting special event?

Yearly schedule?

Traditions at Diversionary?

Awards for shows, performers, etc.?

Theatre superstitions?

How has this community affected / supported Diversionary?

Does Diversionary partner / support other theatres?

Who are your competitors?

Does Diversionary have any outreach programs?

Do you have anything to add?

UPTOWN QUESTIONNAIRE: GOLDEN DRAGON RESTAURANT

ORIGINS & HISTORY

Earlier experience in restaurant business.

Tell about the origins of the restaurant.

Why did they choose that neighborhood?

Community support.

Neighboring businesses.

Other Chinese restaurants (competition).

Who did they buy/lease/rent building from?

Oral History Report

How many years in business?

Why did they quit the business?

Who did they sell it to?

STAFF

Dad?

Mom?

You?

Sibling(s)?

Other relatives?

Managers?

Cooks?

Waiters / waitresses?

Busboys?

Custodians?

SUPPLIES

Where did they get the food?

Dishes?

Furniture?

CUSTOMERS

Did other Asians eat there?

Other minorities?

Do you remember - other regular customers?

Famous people?

EVENTS

Holidays?

Chinese New Year?

Other Chinese events / holidays?

American New Year?

Easter?

4th of July?

Halloween?

Thanksgiving?

Christmas?

Other special events – regular yearly / monthly / weekly meetings, etc.?

Funny / personal memories?

When you were little...?

WALK ME THROUGH THE RESTAURANT

Entry.

Dining areas.

Kitchen.

Food storage.

Restrooms.

Janitorial.

Back entrance.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Sponsored teams?

Provide meeting areas?

Other community participation?

Awards?

TELL A STORY ABOUT THE RESTAURANT...

HOW HAS THE NEIGHBORHOOD CHANGED

ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO ADD

UPTOWN QUESTIONNAIRE: ZOLEZZI'S / STEFANO'S RESTAURANT

ORIGINS & HISTORY

Earlier experience in restaurant business.

Tell about the origins of the restaurant.

Why did they choose that neighborhood?

Community support.

Neighboring businesses.

Other Italian restaurants (competition)?

Who did they buy/lease/rent building from?

How many years in business?

Why did they quit the business?

Who did they sell it to?

STAFF

Dad.

Mom.

You.

Sibling(s).

Other relatives.

Managers.

Cooks.

Waiters / waitresses.

Busboys.

Custodians.

SUPPLIES

Where did they get the food?

Dishes?

Furniture?

CUSTOMERS

Did other Italians eat there?

Other minorities?

Do you remember - other regular customers?

Famous people?

EVENTS

Holidays?

Any Italian events / holidays?

American New Year?

Easter?

4th of July?

Halloween?

Thanksgiving?

Christmas?

Other special events – regular yearly / monthly / weekly meetings, etc.?

Funny / personal memories?

When you were little...?

WALK ME THROUGH THE RESTAURANT

Entry.

Dining areas.

Kitchen.

Food storage.

Restrooms.

Janitorial.

Back entrance.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Sponsored teams?

Provide meeting areas?

Other community participation?

Awards?

TELL A STORY ABOUT THE RESTAURANT...

HOW HAS THE NEIGHBORHOOD CHANGED?

ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO ADD?

SAMPLE FORMS

The following questionnaire was filled out by those participating in the group meeting on July 14, 2003.
Based on specific answers individuals were selected and interviewed.

Uptown Group Interview

Date _____

Methodist Church

FOR SPEAKERS / participants who have had a long term experience in the Uptown Study Area:

please print or write legibly!

YOUR NAME: _____

phone number _____ email _____

snail address _____

REALLY BRIEF QUESTIONNAIRE

What year(s) did you live in the area shown on the map?

Childhood experiences

Neighbors / friends / people

School

Stores

Landmarks (includes interesting houses / buildings / features)

Events of note

Other: